

Appleby Archaeology

Notes of the Committee Meeting of the Appleby Archaeology Group held on Thursday November 20th 2014 at The White House, Appleby.

Present

Phyl Rouston	Chairman
Carol Dougherty	Membership Secretary
Heather Edwards	
Martin Railton	Research
Martin Joyce	Newsletter
Richard Stevens	Secretary

Apologies

Mike Godfrey	Treasurer
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Notes of the last meeting

The notes of the previous meeting were agreed to be a correct record.

1/11/2014 Matters arising

None

2/11/14 Talks to Schools.

Phyl had talked with Trish recently and it was apparent that she had this under control, although the responses from the schools had been disappointing.

3/11/14 Membership

Carol said that there were two new single members making a total of 75, 43 single & 16 joint. There was some confusion about the status of the elderly gentleman in a wheelchair who had attended both talks this year promising to join but apparently he has now done so.

4/11/14 Treasurer's Report

Mike had sent an up to date copy of the accounts for the period 28 August to 20th November showing a positive balance of £681.74. Insurance was shortly due for renewal and Richard advised that since he had not heard any more from an alternative broker with a quote, we should proceed with Towergate as usual.

5/11/14 Research

1. Martin R reported that he had written to Paul Frodsham, on behalf of Wardell-Armstrong Archaeology, as agreed at the August meeting, asking for the current status regarding the outstanding issues with the Brackenber excavation. Paul had replied, apologising for the delay in response and suggesting that there might still be funding within his project for some post excavation work and asked once again for the costs of the various items. Martin had sent these on September 12th and had again received no reply. It was therefore agreed that we should now sever the connection with Altogether Archaeology and look elsewhere (eg. CWAAS) for funding of C14 testing, illustration etc. Martin explained that CWAAS would probably not fund conservation of the collared urn but that this might be something with which we could approach the Town Council. Martin also undertook to prepare the application to CWAAS and write the report for the Transactions. (Martin R)
2. Phyl & Martin R explained the status of the contacts with Appleby Castle. There had so far been no reply to the letter sent to Mrs Nightingale. In the meantime, Martin had

spoken to Carl Bendelow who had told him that the castle grounds were still owned by Mr Nightingale and that he was currently in 'delicate' negotiations with him trying to obtain access to the grounds for town residents and visitors. Since App Arch only wanted access to the grounds, at least initially, in order to trace burgage plots, it was agreed that we should await the result of Carl Bendelow's negotiations before proceeding further. We can however proceed with the original idea of investigating the town itself and Martin R undertook to work out a plan for the project.

3. Martin J asked if he could explain the status of the various projects in the newsletter & it was agreed that he should let the membership know about Brackenber & make a brief mention of the intention to investigate the town.
4. Richard said that he had heard no more from the LIDAR enthusiasts after he had put them in contact with each other.

6/11/14 Correspondence

Phyl had received no correspondence recently & unfortunately Richard had arrived unprepared for this item.

(Post meeting note: Richard had in fact received the following by email:

1. **Cumbria County Council had offered us copies of a booklet on the CNDR, currently in production, either free or at low cost. This had been discussed with Phyl and we had agreed to accept the offer either way.**
2. **An email was received from Adrian Waite (AWICS Ltd., Shire Hall, Appleby) who has authored & self published various books on medieval history including one on the Cliffords. His website shows that he is a member of numerous organizations, although sadly, not ours. Consequently, since this is an advertisement, the details will be printed & left on the table at the next meeting.**
3. **Similarly, an email from Folly Books with a special offer for local history societies, same outcome.**
4. **Finally, the newsletter of the Cumbria Archive Service had been received. This should have been circulated since it is of general interest – since done.)**

7/11/14 Programme

1. The Hartlepool trip was very well received, despite the bleak weather.
2. The AGM speakers had been finalised – Mike Lea and Martin R would speak on the Musgrave Tithe Barn restoration and Trish would speak on the current year's finds from Abbeytown.
3. The original formal invitation letter to speakers has been modified by Phyl but will probably still require slight alterations per speaker, so the person arranging each talk will be responsible for any changes.
4. Richard explained that he was slightly concerned that Linda Hodgson from Workington had not replied to his emails on expenses & that she might be regretting agreeing to speak to the group. He undertook to call her & discuss the matter. **(Post meeting note: Linda has been contacted and is still very happy to speak to the group. However, this may not be in March because of other commitments. Richard will follow this up & consequently we may require another speaker for March 2015.)**

5. All were reminded that the main item for discussion at the next committee meeting was the 2015/16 programme.

8/11/14 AOB

1. A discussion took place regarding the new venue for the group. It was generally thought to be a better venue than the public hall with better acoustics & a cosier atmosphere. The tea & coffee arrangements needed improvement & it was thought that a teapot, large jug & a re-sited water urn would probably solve the problem.

Martin R thought that the room would be rather cramped if audiences remained at the level seen in November. It was generally thought that this meeting had probably been exceptional because of the local interest in the subject.

Heather thought that the late access arrangement was quite disruptive. **(Post meeting note: It might be useful if Phyl emphasizes the importance of prompt arrival during announcements at the next meeting & also if Martin J mentions this in the newsletter.)**

It was agreed that the door should be manned from 7.10pm onwards and that two wheelchair spaces should be left free at each side of the main aisle on the front row of seats. **(Post meeting note: These places and 1-2 accompanying seats for carers should probably be reserved in future.)**

The seating should be arranged such that there is seating right back to the counter on the left side, whereas a space should be left for access to the AV equipment on the right.

In future, the small table for the speaker will be on the left of the screen so that the hand held IR remote control works reliably into the corner.

2. A short discussion took place regarding agenda items for the AGM . Richard agreed to check the standard AGM minutes & send to Phyl & Martin J for the newsletter.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.15pm

Date and time of next meeting Thursday February 26th at 11 Chestnut Close, Culgaith.